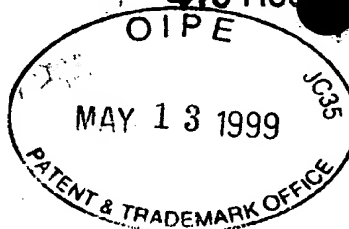


13 MAY 1999



501.36894X00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): M. HIRATANI, et al

Serial No.: 09/242,046

Filed: February 8, 1999

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND ITS MANUFACTURING  
METHOD

Group:

Examiner:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 13, 1999

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the original specification with the attached Substitute Specification.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1, line 6, delete "form" insert --formed--;  
line 9, after "layer" insert --,--;

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